

April 7, 1975

MR. MARIO C. BELISARIO: State Speaker, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of this Chamber, on behalf of the diplomatic and consular representatives from Washington and Chicago, I would like to express our profoundest gratitude for the hospitality and the warmth that has been extended to us in this brief visit to Lincoln. The honor that you have conferred on us by allowing me as representative of this body to address you is indeed overwhelming and we are tremendously grateful and this visit we shall always remember for the rest of our lives. This morning we were shown around your Capitol and I would say that this is the most magnificent Capitol that I have ever seen and, therefore, it is quite understandable that the most inspired pieces of legislation should come from this Chamber. I noticed that there is a murmur all of a sudden, but as I was saying to our guide, Mr. Marsh, when I was at the dinner last night, there was a lady on my left and she took exception to my remark that the most inspired pieces of legislation must come from this Chamber. Apparently she was referring to the Equal Rights Amendment but be that as it may, certainly we from Washington and Chicago have learned something from our very brief visit in Lincoln. This type of legislation having a Unicameral branch only is something unique to most of our governments. The system of television coverage of the session is also something novel and I think deserves to be studied for adoption in our respective countries. As you know, we are proceeding to Kearney to attend the Midwest Conference on World Affairs and for us, this is our first visit in this part of the country and we welcome this visit because we in Washington tend to think in terms of the East as far as the United States is concerned, which I think is something uncalled for because, after all, Washington and New York are not the United States. So we are pleased, we are happy to be able to come down here and feel the heart of America, know the views of the people of the heartland of America and I hope that in this conference in Kearney, we shall be able to exchange views on matters of equal concern. Certainly the conference at Kearney comes at a very critical time in American foreign policy considering recent events in Vietnam, in Cambodia, in the Mid-East, in Portugal, the death of Chiang Kai-shek, the death of King Faisal. All of these are things that may affect the course of American foreign policy and so brief though our visit to Lincoln is, certainly it is a most fruitful visit and we are deeply grateful for your receiving us and for your taking the time out to listen to me as representative of this group. In closing, may I say not good-bye, not farewell, but only hasta la vista, until we meet again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, would you escort the Minister from the Chamber. We will move to Senator Barnett's motion found under #10 of your agenda, the motion to reconsider the action on 502.

CLERK: I think, Mr. President, the motion is to place 502 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee.